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Press Release

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1. Komisi Suesue mo le Saolotoga o Tapuaiga.

Ua finagalo le Kapeneta e faatū se Komiti Suesue e tagataga’i i le mataupu o le Saolotoga o Tapuaiga i Samoa.

O le Saolotoga o Tapuaiga, o se aiā tatau tupito faale tagata o loo malu puipuia i lalo o Feagaiga Faavaomalo ua uma ona sainia e Samoa. O loo malu puipuia foi lenei saolotoga i lalo o le Fuaiupu e Sefulu ma le tasi (11) o le Faavae o Samoa.

Peita’i ua au ina avea ma mataupu faatupu vevesi i totonu o alaalfaga ma ua faamāmāsagia ai foi le pule mamalu a alii ma faipule i luma o le Faamasinoga. E lē gata i lea, o le fesiligia pea e Ekalesia i Samoa pe ua lē tatau ea ona toe iloilo tulafono o loo faatino ai le Saolotoga o Tapuaiga?

O loo ua i ai foi se popolega i le Malo i le taimi nei ona e i ai isi tapuaiga e le’i oo mai i Samoa, e matua faataute’e o latou talitonuga i talitonuga o le tapuaiga Kerisiano.

Ona o le maaleale o lenei mataupu, ua faatu ai nei se Komisi Suesue e fautua i le Kapeneta i ni manatu e faataoto ai i lagatonu lenei mataupu tuga.

Commission of Enquiry on Freedom of Religion

Cabinet has approved the establishment of a Commission of Inquiry to review the Freedom of Religion in Samoa.

Freedom of Religion is a fundamental human right safeguarded under an International Convention already ratified by Samoa. This freedom is also safeguarded under Section Eleven of the Constitution of Samoa.

However, freedom of religion has somehow posed a direct challenge to the autonomy of the village council. With most of the cases brought before the Court in the past, it ruled in favour of the freedom of religion, and with the authority of the indigenous Government found wanting. Furthermore, Christian Authorities in

Samoa have asked Government whether it is not time to review legislations pertaining to Freedom of Religion.

Government is concerned that there are other religions yet to arrive in Samoa which strongly advocate beliefs that are contrary to Christianity.

Because of the brittleness of the matter, hence a Commission of Inquiry is established to give advice to Cabinet in handling of this matter.

2. Komisi Suesue mo le faatumauina o le Mamalu o Suafa Matai.

Ua finagalo le Kapeneta e faatū se Komisi Suesue na te faataoto ni taiala e mataituina ai saofa'i a matai ma faatumau ai pea le mamalu o pulega faamatai.

O le faamatai, o le fatu lea o le aganuu mamalu a Samoa. Peita'i, ua āu ina faamāmāsagia ma soloa lona mamalu talu ai le soona fai o suafa matai faavae o aiga ma nuu, ua oo atu i le tai selau po o le ta'i lua selau e faatino i se aso e tasi mo se suafa iloga se tasi. O lo o tupu pea lenei faiga ma, ua avea le soona fai o nei suafa matai iloga, ua fai ai ma ulaga pe talasua ai foi.

Sa tupu muamua foi lenei luma ma taua ai nei matai soona fai o 'Matai Palota'. Ma, na foia lenei tulaga ina ua palota i latou ua aulia lo latou lua sefulu ma le tasi o tausaga o le soifua. Lenei ua toe aliali mai foi lenei tulaga faigata.

Ona o le lavelave o lenei mataupu, ua afua ai ona faatuina se Komisi Suesue, ina ia maua mai ai e le Malo ni manatu autū e mafai ai ona fofō faaletulafono lenei mataupu.

Commission of Inquiry on Matai Titles

Cabinet has established a Commission of Inquiry to look into ways to monitor bestowment of matai titles and to uphold the dignity of the matai system.

Matai system is the heart of the Samoan Culture. However, the unlimited number of matai titles being bestowed has decreased the value of the titles, where in most cases hundred to two hundred people are bestowed with the same paramount title in a single bestowal ceremony. This practice has now devalued the importance of the matai system, and has eaten into the core of 'Faasamoa'.

Mass bestowment of matai titles was experienced in the past when Matai were the only ones given the right to vote during Elections. This was brought to an end when this right was extended to Samoan citizens who have reached the age of twenty one.

Given its sensitivity, a Commission of Inquiry is been established to provide Government with quality advice on how best to legally settle this important matter.

3. Fausia fogafaletolu a le SNPF i Apia

Ua faamaonia e le Kapeneta le fausia o le fogafaletolu a le FAalapopotopoga Faaputuga Tupe mo le Lumanai Manuia o Tagata Samoa (SNPF) i le vaega o lo o i ai nei Molesi i Apia.

O le fale o Molesi tuai ua silia ma le 40 tausaga, ma ua matauina le faaletonu ma le faaleagaina o le tulaga ua i ai nei le fale mo auunaga a i latou o loo lisi ai mo pisinisi. Ua taugata foi le tau faaleleia i tausaga taitasi ma ua le gafatia le faatinoga o ni pisinisi fou ona o le faaeteetega i lavea pe manua ai foi seisi.

O nisi o faamanuiaga e maua mai ai i leni atinae:

- O le a i ai se aseta e faagaioi mo tupe maua maunonoa a le SNPF mo le 50 tausaga o lumanai pe sili atu foi. Siitia tupe maua ma tupe mama mai ia fanua a le SNPF;
- Siitia tupe maua faasili ma siitia tului mo sui faisaofoaga;
- O gatasi ma fuafuaga mo le faagaioiina o aseta a le Faalapopotopoga ma maua ai faamanuiaga mo sui faisaofoaga i le lumanai;
- Faaleleia le fale ma le siosiomaga o pisinisi o loo i ai i le taimi nei;
- Tele avanoa e lisi ai pisinisi laiti i totonu o le taulaga e pei o faleaiga, fale kofe, fale ofu ma isi;
- Fesoasoani i le tamaoiga o Samoa aemaise o se tulaga matagofie o lea vaega o le taulaga

O le tau aofia o le galuega ua fuafua e \$50 miliona.

New three storey building for SNPF in Apia

Cabinet has approved the construction of a three storey building for the Samoa National Provident Fund at the current location of Molesi Complex in Apia.

The Molesi Complex is over 40 years old, and is run down and unsafe for lease. Maintenance costs of the building have been really expensive.

Benefits expected from this project include:

- An ideal investment asset that will surely earn revenue for the SNPF in the next 50 years or more;
- Increase Revenue interest for contributors;
- It will coincide with the SNPF's Strategic Investment Framework and will benefit contributors;
- Good building and environment for existing tenants;

- More spaces for small businesses in town like restaurants, coffee cafes, clothing stores and more;
- Improve the Economy of Samoa

The estimated cost of the project is \$50 million.

4. Lipoti o Gasegase Fatuga’o, Fepuari 2010.

Ua faamaonia e le Kapeneta le lipoti o Gasegase Fatuga’o mo le masina o Fepuari 2010.

O loo taua i lenei lipoti le aofa’i o gasegase tumau e fasefulu ma le valu (48) o loo togafitia i le Falema’i Faamamatoto i Motootua. E to’alua (2) gasegase asiasi mai fafo. O le aofaiga e lumasefulu (50) gasegase sa togafitia i le masina o Fepuari 2010.

O le aofa’i o tamaitai e sefulu ma le valu (18), a o le aofa’i o gasegase alii e tolusefulu ma le lua.

O loo faaaauau pea lenei tautua a le Falema’i Faamamatoto mo le mamalu o le atunuu atoa ma e asiasi mai fafo.

Dialysis Report for February 2010.

Cabinet has approved the report of Dialysis patients for the month of February 2010.

As stated in the report, forty eight (48) local patients and two (2) holiday patients have been treated at the National Kidney Foundation Hospital at Motootua. A total of fifty (50) has been recorded for the month of February. There are eighteen (18) females and thirty two (32) males.

The National Kidney Foundation is continuing to offer this helpful service to the public and visitors from overseas countries.

Government Press Secretariat